NISHIO ISHIN'S WORK, HIS "FIRST" BIG STORY, NOW A MANGA!

HEY THERE
IT SEEMS I ENDED UP MAKING YOU WAIT. MY APOLOGIES
HEY NOW, HEY NOW
YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER JUST LIKE ME RIGHT?
PUT THAT INELEGANT TOOL AWAY.
.....

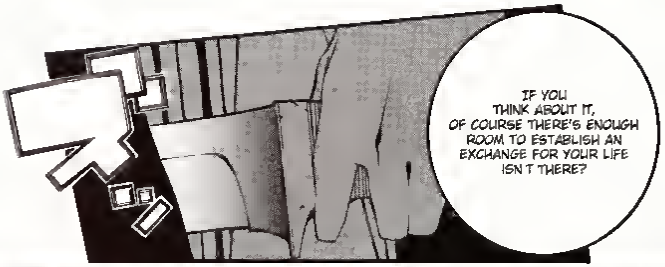
YOU'RE FROM THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY AREN'T YOU

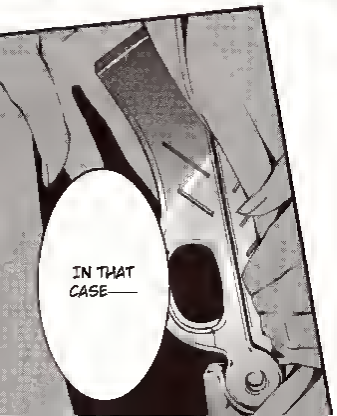
HEH HEH.

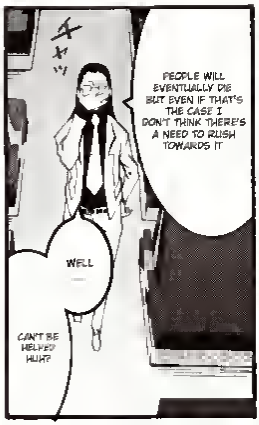
YOU SEE, I'M A MAN THAT'S MORE LIKE A WHITE PIGEON WHO LOVES PEACE AND JUSTICE MORE THAN ANYTHING
SO IF YOU WITHDRAW HERE I'LL FORGET WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

EVEN AMONG THE ZEROZAKIS I'M AN EXTRAORDINARY ECCENTRICITY
A SO-CALLED PEACEFUL RIGHTEOUS MAN YOU COULD SAY

I NEVER MET YOU AND YOU NEVER MET ME
HOW'S THAT SOUND?


IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, OF COURSE THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM TO ESTABLISH AN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIFE ISN'T THERE?


IN THAT CASE——


PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY DIE BUT EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE I DON'T THINK THERE'S A NEED TO RUSH TOWARDS IT
WELL——
CAN'T BE HELPED HUH?

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI'S HUMAN EXAM

Manga ○ Shiomiya Iruka
Original Story ○ Nishin Ishin

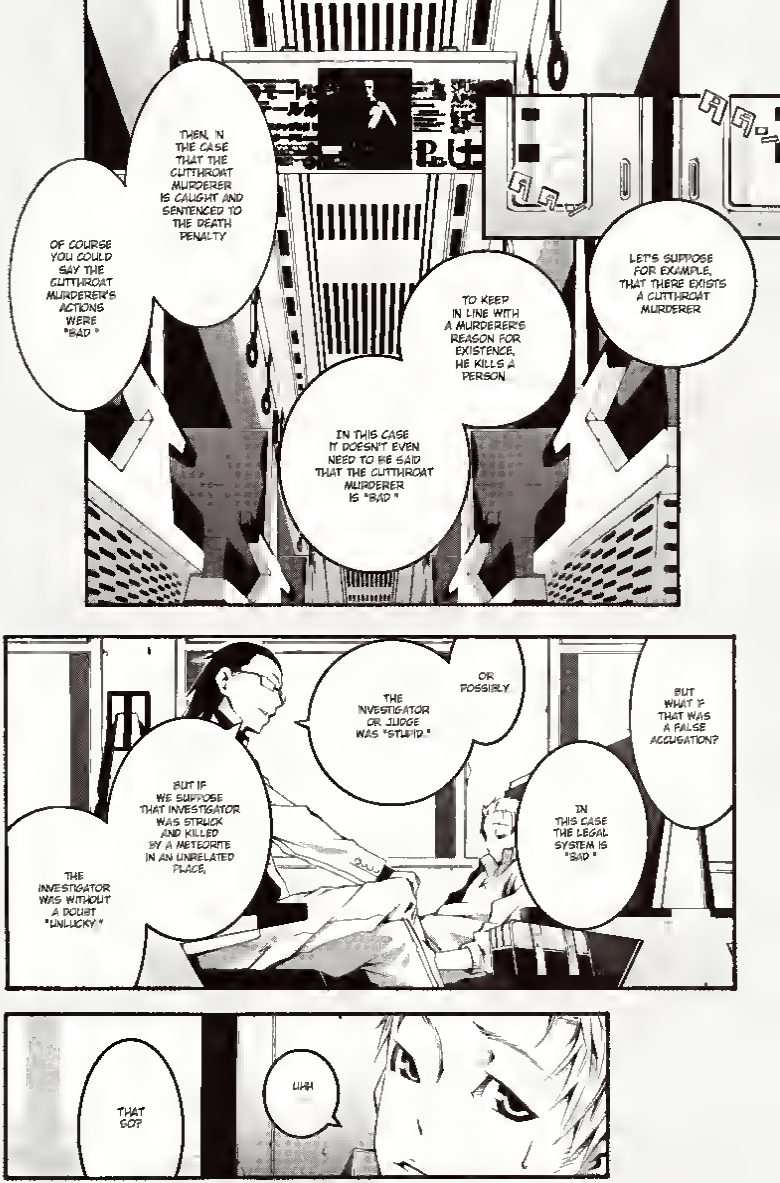
Chapter 0 "Zerozaki Soushiki"

The zero era's never-before seen stylish action, with a beautiful finale • appended!!

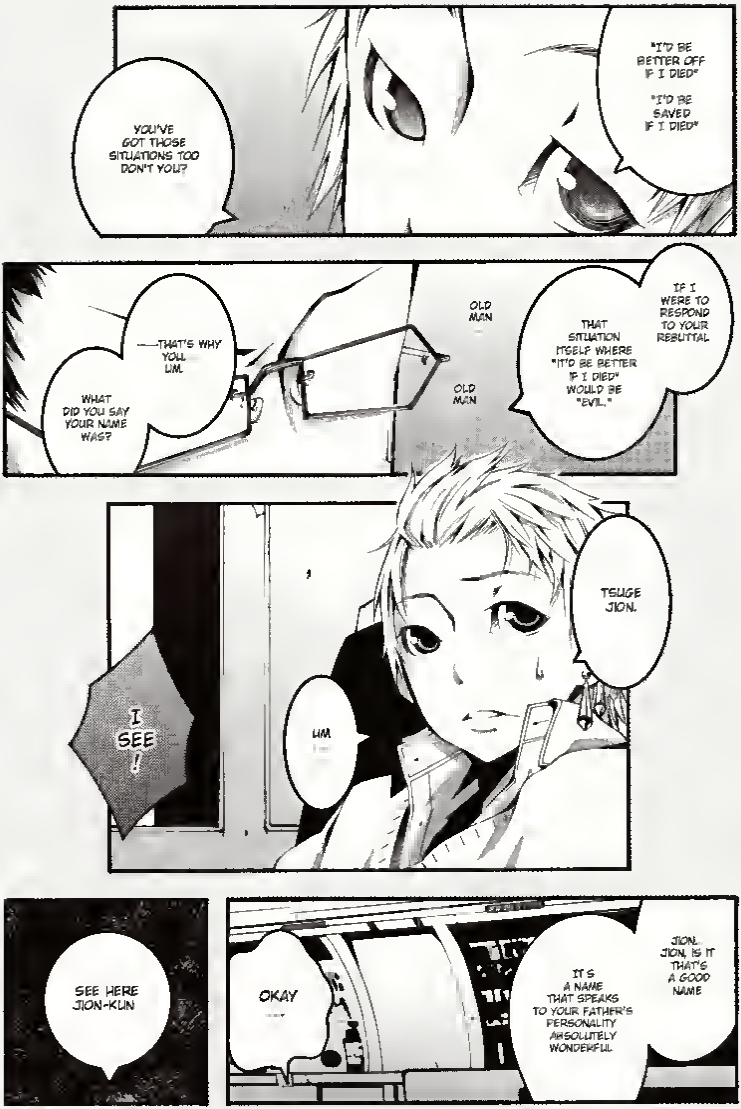
STRONG COMBI-NATION!

NISHIN ISHIN × SHIOMIYA IRUKA

The "Zerosaki Family" — That is the family of cutthroat murderers that ranks 3rd among the "Killer Names."
"What" awaits on the course of their conflict—!?


LET'S SUPPOSE FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE EXISTS A CUTTHROAT MURDERER
TO KEEP IN LINE WITH A MURDERER'S REASON FOR EXISTENCE, HE KILLS A PERSON
IN THIS CASE IT DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO BE SAID THAT THE CUTTHROAT MURDERER IS "BAD"
THEN, IN THE CASE THAT THE CUTTHROAT MURDERER IS CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO THE DEATH PENALTY
OF COURSE YOU COULD SAY THE CUTTHROAT MURDERER'S ACTIONS WERE "BAD"
BUT WHAT IF THAT WAS A FALSE ACCUSATION?
IN THIS CASE THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS "BAD"
OR POSSIBLY
THE INVESTIGATOR OR JUDGE WAS "STUPID."
BUT IF WE SUPPOSE THAT INVESTIGATOR WAS STRUCK AND KILLED BY A METEORITE IN AN UNRELATED PLACE,
THE INVESTIGATOR WAS WITHOUT A DOUBT "UNLUCKY."
UHH
THAT SO?

WHERE NO ROOM EXISTS FOR GOOD INTENTIONS OR COMMON SENSE
THERE'S THE NOTION THAT "EVIL" CLOSELY FOLLOWS A "PERSON'S DEATH."
THE ONLY THING A PERSON'S DEATH HAS IS——
SO THAT'S REDUNDANT
HOWEVER, IN STORIES WHERE PEOPLE DIE, ONLY "VILLAINS" MAKE AN APPEARANCE,
"EVIL."
BUT YOU KNOW OLD MAN
NOTHING ELSE.
ONLY "EVIL."
THAT'S RIGHT
ONLY "EVIL?"


"I'D BE BETTER OFF IF I DIED"
"I'D BE SAVED IF I DIED"
YOU'VE GOT THOSE SITUATIONS TOO DON'T YOU?
IF I WERE TO RESPOND TO YOUR REBUTTAL
THAT SITUATION ITSELF WHERE "IT'D BE BETTER IF I DIED" WOULD BE "EVIL."
OLD MAN
OLD MAN
——THAT'S WHY YOU'LL LIM.
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
TSUGE JION.
LIM.
I SEE!
SEE HERE JION-KUN
OKAY
IT'S A NAME THAT SPEAKS TO YOUR FATHER'S PERSONALITY ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL.
JION. JION. IS IT THAT'S A GOOD NAME

ORIGINALLY, THE WORLD WAS FULL OF "EVIL" EXISTENCES WHICH COULD SIMPLY BE EXPRESSED AS "EVIL."

THIS THING CALLED HUMAN LIFE IS SORT OF LIKE SECLUDING YOURSELF AND GOING ABOUT YOUR DAILY ROUTINE IN ROOM WITH LAND MINES STREWN ABOUT HERE AND THERE.
SOCIAL WITHDRAWAL WITH YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE, THAT IS HUMAN LIFE ITSELF.

EVEN DOING NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, HUMANS WILL END UP MEETING "SOMETHING BAD" WITH ABOUT THE SAME PROBABILITY AS STOPPING AT A TRAFFIC LIGHT.

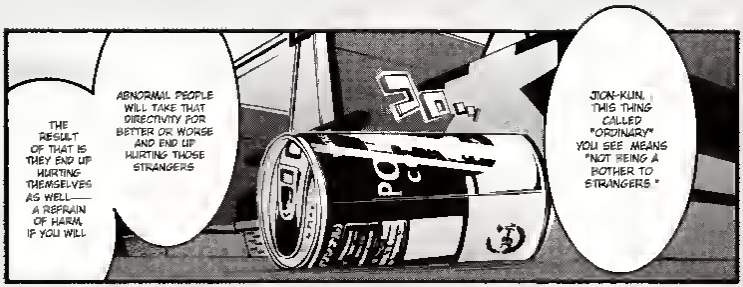
YOU MUSN'T FORGET THIS.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, YOU MUSTN'T DEVIATE FROM THE TWO WORDS "NATURAL" AND "ORDINARY."

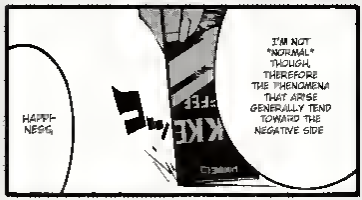
JUST LIKE "EVIL," SOMETHING SUCH AS REASONS TO DIE ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE WORLD.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THERE'S NO NEED WHATSOEVER FOR YOU YOURSELF TO BECOME THAT "EVIL," AND FURTHERMORE DOUBLE THE PROBABILITY THAT YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD.

AS A LIVING PERSON, WANTING TO KILL YOURSELF IS THE LOWEST OF LOW THOUGHTS.
THAT ACTION ISN'T EVEN AN ESCAPE.

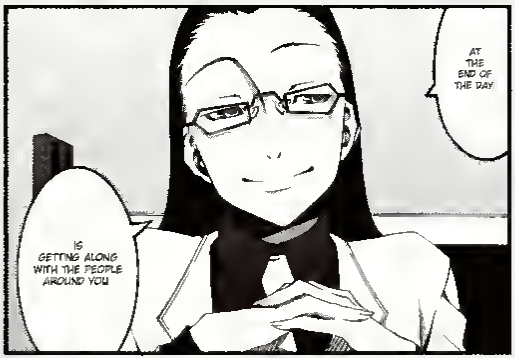
PEOPLE SHOULD CONITNUE TO LIVE ON AS LONG AS THEY CAN STAY ALIVE, NO MATTER WHAT FATE THEY CARRY, NO MATTER WHAT SINS THEY HAVE COMMITTED. PEOPLE THAT ARE ALIVE ARE PEOPLE THAT SHOULD LIVE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE AN OBJECTIVE THEY MUST ACHIEVE.

I SEE NOW
IF I WAS AROUND YOUR AGE, I WOULDN'T BE THINKING ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING I GUESS
"IN THE FUTURE, IF I WORKED I WOULDN'T WANT TO BECOME A SUIT AND NECKTIE"
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
—— BUT IN THAT SENSE I CAN'T REALLY RECOMMEND ANY ACTION EVEN THOUGH I'M CHATTERING ON AND ON.
IT DIFFERS TOO MUCH FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
WHY? IT'S JUST A JOKE ISN'T IT?
NO,..
THAT'S NOT...
NO NO NO, I DON'T MIND.
THERE'S NO NEED TO MIND ME.
NO MATTER WHAT THE TIME PERIOD, KIDS WANT TO BECOME SPORTS PLAYERS OR MUSICIANS.
THEY'RE INSTINCTIVELY FEARFUL TOWARDS BEING "THE SAME AS SOMEONE ELSE."
IN OTHER WORDS THEY DISLIKE A LACK OF PERSONALITY, OR NO PERSONALITY AT ALL.
ALL BECAUSE IT'S THE "ORDINARY" THAT'S COMMONPLACE OF COURSE.
AND THEY HATE SUITS AND NECKTIES.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS FEELING AT ALL.
"ORDINARY"
—— EVEN THOUGH THAT WOULD BE THE MOST WONDERFUL THING...

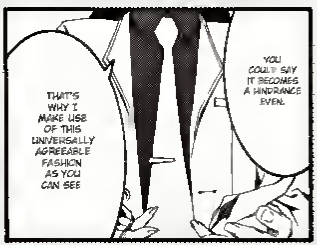

JION-KUN, THIS THING CALLED "ORDINARY" YOU SEE MEANS "NOT BEING A BOTHER TO STRANGERS."
ABNORMAL PEOPLE WILL TAKE THAT DIRECTIVITY FOR BETTER OR WORSE AND END UP HURTING THOSE STRANGERS
THE RESULT OF THAT IS THEY END UP HURTING THEMSELVES AS WELL—— A REFRAIN OF HARM, IF YOU WILL

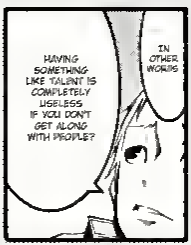

I'M NOT "NORMAL" THOUGH, THEREFORE THE PHENOMENA THAT ARISE GENERALLY TEND TOWARD THE NEGATIVE SIDE
HAPPI-NESS,

THAT'S WHY "ORDINARY" AND "OBVIOUS" ARE VERY BLESSED THINGS,
BOTH TO THE PERSON AND THEIR SURROUN-DINGS


AT THE END OF THE DAY
IS GETTING ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU

BUT IN THIS WORLD, THERE ALSO EXIST MOTS WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS
FOR EXAMPLE, MY YOUNGER BROTHER IS LIKE THAT——


YOU COULD SAY IT BECOMES A HINDRANCE EVEN.
THAT'S WHY I MAKE USE OF THIS UNIVERSALLY AGREEABLE FASHION AS YOU CAN SEE

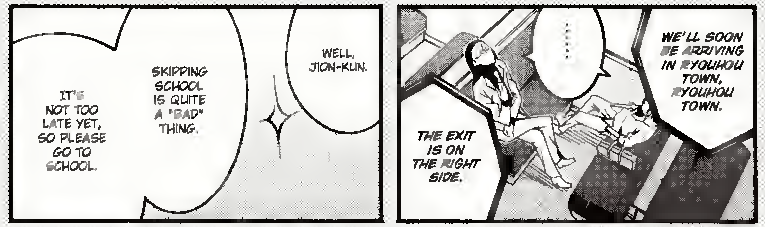

IN OTHER WORDS
HAVING SOMETHING LIKE TALENT IS COMPLETELY USELESS IF YOU DON'T GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE?

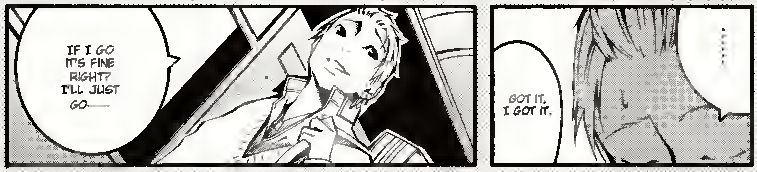
TO BE HONEST, I'M ACTUALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF SEARCHING FOR THAT BROTHER WHO'S CURRENTLY RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME.
FROM THE START HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A GUY THAT LIKES TO WANDER ABOUT.
ALSO IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO BE FASHIONABLE, BUT HE'S PACKING KNIVES ALL OVER HIS BODY.
HE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE WEARING SUNGLASSES AS WELL.
AND A BIG TATTOO ON HIS FACE.
A CELLPHONE STRAP ON HIS EAR.
DYED HAIR, WITH THE BACK TIED UP.
JUST AROUND YOUR AGE ABOUT 150CM TALL.

SHOULDN'T YOU LEAVE THAT SORT OF THING TO THE POLICE OR DETECTIVES?
OH NO,
DUE TO SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT CAN'T BE DONE YOU SEE HE'S AN ANNOYING LITTLE BROTHER WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS
—WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? IS HE BY ANY CHANCE A CUTTHROAT MURDERER OR SOMETHING?
OH NO. OH NO.
THAT'D BE RUDE TO CUTTHROAT KILLERS.
HE'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
TO BE CALLED THAT, HE'D HAVE TO PILE UP A BIT MORE STUDY UNDER ME OF COURSE.
THERE'S MANY DANGERS IN THIS WORLD AND DURING SUMMER, AFTER ALL.
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE, SO I'LL ASK FOR THE TIME BEING.
HAVE... YOU EVER SEEN MY BROTHER BEFORE?
NOPE... IF I HAD MET SOMEONE THAT UNPLEASANT EVEN ONCE I WOULDN'T FORGET, IF POSSIBLE I'D NEVER WANT TO——
HM?
.....
IF YOU'RE QUESTIONING ME THAT MEANS YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A GUESS?
UH-OH
YOU'RE SHARP LIKE A GREAT DETECTIVE BUT YOUR AIM IS OFF. ALSO LIKE A GREAT DETECTIVE
I CERTAINLY HAVE NO INFORMATION BUT——
AT THE VERY LEAST I KNOW WHERE MY FAMILY IS, BY INTUITION.
INTUITION?

EVEN IF YOU SEARCHED ALL OVER THE WORLD, I'M SURE YOU WOULDN'T FIND A FAMILY THAT GETS ALONG AS WELL AS OURS
OUR FAMILY IS BOUND BY THAT SORT OF CONNECTION YOU SEE. AND WE WON'T TOLERATE OTHER ALLEGIANCES.
"COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS"

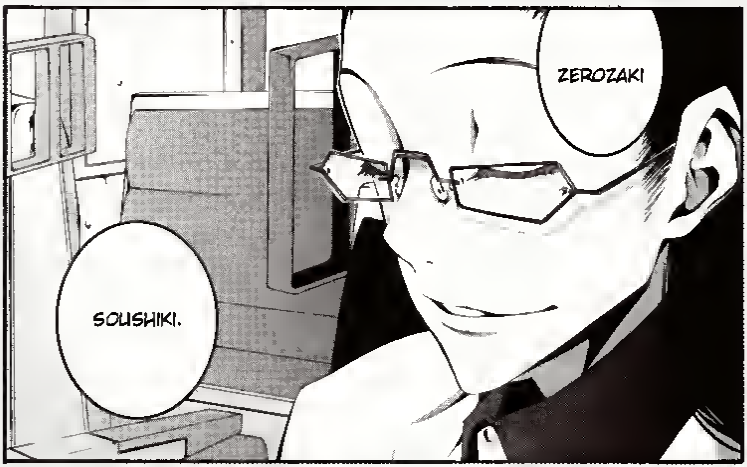
ORIGINALLY, THIS THING CALLED A FAMILY WAS——
SERIOUSLY?——
I CAN BE PROUD OF.
A FAMILY THAT

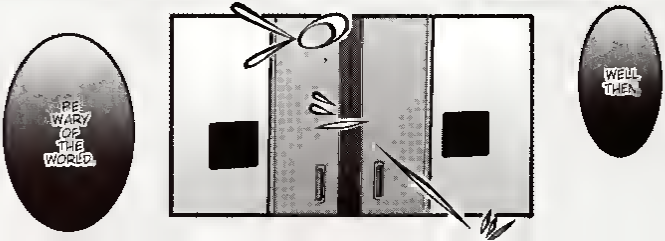

IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET, SO PLEASE GO TO SCHOOL.
SKIPPING SCHOOL IS QUITE A "BAD" THING.
WELL, JION-KUN.
THE EXIT IS ON THE RIGHT SIDE.
WE'LL SOON BE ARRIVING IN RYOUHOU TOWN, RYOUHOU TOWN.


IF I GO IT'S FINE RIGHT? I'LL JUST GO——
GOT IT, I GOT IT.

YES YES!
THAT'S WHAT I EXPECT OF THE PERSON WHO BEARS THE NAME JION
HEH
THAT'S GOOD IT SEEMS THAT YOU "PASS."

WHAT?
OH NOTHING JUST TALKING TO MYSELF
BY THE WAY
YOUR NAME I STILL HAVEN'T ASKED IT YET

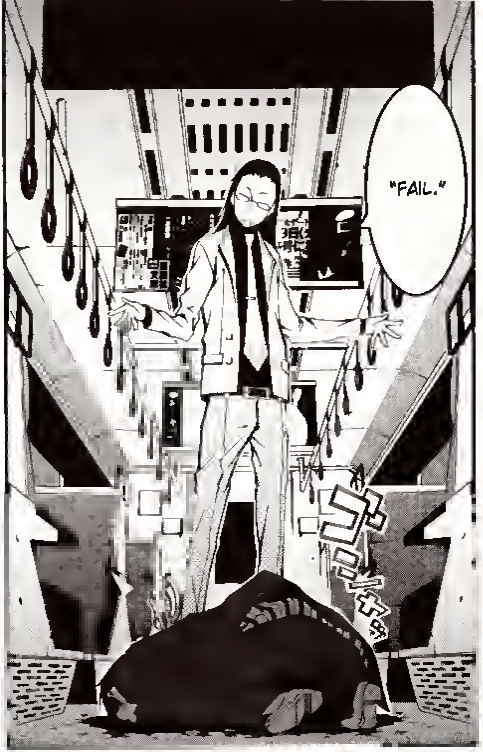

ZEROZAKI
SOUSHIKI.


WELL THEN.
BE WARY OF THE WORLD.

THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T COMPREHEND THOUGH.
!?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY TO BE TARGETED FOR ANY REASON AT ALL.
EVEN IF THERE WERE NO GROUNDS ON WHICH THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY WAS BEING TARGETED,
...
WITH THIS SO-CALLED ZEROZAKI NAME.
AFTER ALL, "THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS" IN THE FIRST PLACE

OOPS.
OH MY.

AS EXPECTED, YOU——



GEEZ...

MY BROTHER'S SO CLOSE BY,

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE DOING THESE KINDS OF THINGS

Tsuge Jion — Pass

Sawagishi Tokuhiko — Fail

To Be Continued Next PANDORA!